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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/875,075	06/06/2001	Hiroshi Endo	9976-9US (OB0025US)	6219
570	7590	09/09/2004	EXAMINER	
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD L.L.P.			ZHONG, CHAD	
ONE COMMERCE SQUARE			ART UNIT	
2005 MARKET STREET, SUITE 2200			PAPER NUMBER	
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-7013			2152	

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/875,075

Applicant(s)

ENDO, HIROSHI

Examiner

Chad Zhong

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2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 are presented for examination.
2. It is noted that although the present application does contain line numbers in specification and claims, the line numbers in the claims do not correspond to the preferred format. The preferred format is to number each line of every claim, with each claim beginning with line 1. For ease of reference by both the Examiner and Applicant all future correspondence should include the recommended line numbering.
3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
pg 23, lines 18-19, 150 and 160 should be changed to 240, and 250.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda, US 6,690,480, in view of Voit et al. (hereinafter Voit), US 6,215,790.
6. As per claim 1, Maeda teaches an image communication apparatus for use in an image communication network system including a computer network being able to transmit and receive an image, based on a network address, a first telephone network being able to transmit and receive said image based on a first telephone number, a second telephone network being able to transmit and receive said image based on a second telephone number, comprising (Fig 3):

an input section to input either of said first telephone number or said second telephone number provided to another image communication apparatus to which said image is to be transmitted (Fig 3, Fig 15);

a judging section to judge whether said telephone number input through said input section is able to be used (Col. 12, lines 54-62, lines 35-40);

a number transmitting section to transmit said input telephone number, based on a judgement result by said judging section, to either of said first address supplying device or said second address supplying device;

an address receiving section to receive, in response to said telephone number fed from said telephone number transmitting section, a network address corresponding to said telephone number; and

an image transmitting section to transmit, based on said network address received by said address receiving section, said image to said another image communication apparatus through said computer network (Col. 18, lines 15-40).

7. Maeda does not teach

a first address supplying device connected to said computer network adapted to store correspondence between said first telephone number and said network address corresponding to said first telephone number, and a second address supplying device connected to said computer network adapted to store correspondence between said second telephone number and said network address corresponding to said second telephone number

8. Voit teaches

a first address supplying device connected to said computer network adapted to store correspondence between said first telephone number and said network address corresponding to said first telephone number, and a second address supplying device connected to said computer

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network adapted to store correspondence between said second telephone number and said network address corresponding to said second telephone number (abstract; Fig 1; Col. 13, lines 30-40).

9. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Maeda and Voit because they both dealing with having tables storing plurality of information data regarding to phone numbers and IP addresses. Furthermore, the teaching of Voit to allow

a first address supplying device connected to said computer network adapted to store correspondence between said first telephone number and said network address corresponding to said first telephone number, and a second address supplying device connected to said computer network adapted to store correspondence between said second telephone number and said network address corresponding to said second telephone number would improve the efficiency for Maeda's system by allowing for parallel processing between plurality of network domains and their corresponding look up tables.

10. As per claim 2, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judging section judges whether said input telephone number has been registered (Fig. 3; Col. 18, lines 15-40).

11. As per claim 3, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judging section judges whether said input telephone number is said first telephone number or said second telephone number (Fig. 3; Col. 18, lines 15-40; Col. 12, lines 1-15).

12. As per claim 4, Maeda teaches the image communication system according to claim 1, wherein said image communication apparatus is provided with said first address supplying device and said second address supplying as function sections of said image communication apparatus

(Fig 3).

13. As per claim 5, Maeda teaches the image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising a second image transmitting section to transmit images to said another image communication apparatus through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in second telephone number (Fig 3).

14. As per claim 6, Maeda teaches the image communication device according to claim 5, further comprising a signal receiving section to receive, when said second image transmitting section transmits a first image, using either of said first telephone number or said second telephone number, to said another image communication apparatus through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in second telephone number, a signal containing a computer address provided to said image communication apparatus on a receiver side which is returned, in response to said transmitting of said image, from said another image communication apparatus and wherein said first image transmitting section is adapted to transmit a second image contained in said signal received by said signal receiving section, based on said computer address of said another image communication apparatus, to said another image communication apparatus through said computer network (Col. 18, lines 15-40).

15. As per claim 7, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a storage section to store correspondence between said telephone number used by said image transmitting section when said first image is transmitted and received through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in said second telephone number and said network address of said another image communication apparatus received by said signal receiving section when said first image is received (Fig 3; Col. 6, lines 20-30).

16. As per claim 8, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said second image transmitting section, when said first image transmitting section fails to transmit said image based on said computer address through said computer network, transmits said image using either of said first telephone number or said second telephone number through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in said second telephone number (Fig 4; Col. 12, lines 30-40).

17. As per claim 9, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising an operation section to designate to which priority is given, transmission by said first image transmitting section through said computer network or transmission by said second image transmitting section through said telephone network (Col. 12, lines 30-40).

18. As per claim 10, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said operation section, when said first image transmitting section fails to transmit said image through said computer network, designates whether said image is to be transmitted by said second image transmitting section through said telephone network (Col. 12, lines 50-62).

19. As per claim 11, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first telephone network is an inside telephone network that is able to transmit and receive said image based on said first telephone number being said inside telephone number and said second telephone network is an outside telephone network that is able to transmit and receive said image based on said second telephone number being said outside telephone number and wherein said computer network is either of an intranet or the Internet that is able to transmit and receive said image based on said network address being an IP (Internet Protocol) address (Fig 2-4; Col. 1, lines 35-41).

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20. As per claim 12, Maeda teaches the image communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said number transmitting section transmits said input number through said computer network and said address receiving section receives said network address through said computer network (Fig. 3; Col. 1, lines 35-45).

21. As per claim 13, claim 13 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 1 above.

22. As per claim 14, claim 14 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 2 above.

23. As per claim 15, claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 3 above.

24. As per claim 16, Maeda teaches the image communication system according to claim 13, wherein said image communication system is provided with, as its function section, either of said first address supplying device or said second address supplying device (Col. 6, lines 20-30).

25. As per claim 17, Maeda teaches the image communication system according to claim 16, wherein said image communication apparatus further includes an operation section to designate either of said image communication apparatus having either of said first address supplying device or said second address supplying device as a device from which said network address is acquired (Col. 6, lines 20-30).

26. As per claim 18, claim 18 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 12 above.

27. As per claim 19, claim 19 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to combination of claims 1 and 3 above.

28. As per claim 20, Maeda teaches the image communication method according to claim 19, further comprising:

second transmitting said image to said another image communication apparatus, based on

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said first telephone number, through a first telephone network and a second telephone network;
and

selectively performing either of said first transmitting and said second transmitting (Col. 2, lines 30-42).

29. As per claim 21, claim 21 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claims 9 above.

30. As per claim 22, claim 22 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claims 10 above.

31. As per claim 23, Maeda teaches the image communication method according to claim 19, further comprising:

receiving a signal which is to be received from said another image communication apparatus through either of said first telephone network or said second telephone network and which contains a computer address of said another image communication apparatus;

extracting a computer address of said another image communication apparatus from said received signal; and

wherein said first transmitting is used to transmit said image, based on said extracted computer address, through said computer network to said another image communication apparatus (Col. 18, lines 15-40).

Conclusion

32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to "IMAGE COMMUNICATION APPARATUS IMAGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND IMAGE COMMUNICATION METHOD".

- i. US 2003/0039237 Forsolw
- ii. US 6584098 Dutnall


- iii. US 6215790 Voit et al.
- iv. US 6587684 Hsu et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (703) 305-0718. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on 703-305-8498. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

CZ
August 16, 2004



Dung C. Dinh
Primary Examiner